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In the Claims

1. (currently amended) A self-cleaning, ventilated brake rotor comprising:  
[[a]] first and second circular members having annular braking surfaces jointly defining inner and outer circumferential surfaces and a central portion;  
~~a first, an~~ elongated slot provided in ~~on each~~ the first annular braking surface, said slot having a depth, a width and a length and a width and extending from said central portion to an outer periphery of said rotor;  
an a-first opening in a bottom of each slot having a size smaller than the length of the first slot ~~wherein all or a portion of the first opening being provided within the first slot;~~ and  
each said slot terminating adjacent to but short of and spaced from said outer periphery and central portion of said rotor.
2. (original) The rotor according to claim 1, further comprising a hat portion disposed in the central portion and adapted for mounting the rotor to a vehicle.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 1, wherein each ~~the first~~ opening includes a width or radius equal to or smaller than the width of the first slot.
- 5-8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 4 ~~[[8]]~~, wherein a flow channel is provided between the circular members and opposite said inner and outer circumferential surfaces.
10. (canceled)
11. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 2 ~~[[1]]~~, further comprising a plurality of vanes provided in said channel between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces, wherein at least a pair of vanes defines the ~~the~~ ~~[[a]]~~ flow channel having a first flow channel opening ~~provided~~ near the central region and a second flow

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channel opening provided near a periphery of the brake rotor, and the openings in said slots communicate wherein the first opening fluid communicates with said first opening via the flow channel.

12-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein all or a portion of each ~~the first~~ slot is substantially straight.

21. (currently amended) The brake rotor according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein each ~~the first~~ slot includes a curve.

22-53. (canceled)

54. (currently amended) A vehicle having a disc braking system including one or more disc brake rotors, each rotor comprising:

~~[[a]]~~ first and second circular members having annular braking surfaces on opposite sides of said rotor, said rotor having a central portion;

an elongated slot provided on each of said annular braking surfaces, each elongated slot having a depth, a length, first and second ends, and a width with a first end of each slot adjacent to and spaced from said central portion and the second end of each slot adjacent to and spaced from an outer periphery of said rotor; [[and]]

a plurality of vanes between said circular members adjacent said annular braking surfaces; and

each slot in said first and second annular braking surfaces having a plurality of bottom openings for communicating with a slot on an opposite braking surface through a space between adjacent vanes.

55. (currently amended) A vehicle having a disc brake system including one or more disc brake rotors, each rotor comprising:

first and second annular braking surfaces on opposite sides of said rotor, said rotor having a central portion;

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a hat portion disposed in the central portion and adapted for mounting said rotor to a vehicle;

a plurality of vanes provided between the inner and outer circumferential surfaces, wherein a plurality of corresponding flow channels are defined between at least a pair of vanes of the plurality of vanes, and wherein each flow channel includes a first flow channel opening provided near the central region and a second flow channel opening provided near a periphery of the brake rotor;

a plurality of first elongated slots each having a length and a width and being provided on the first annular braking surface;

a plurality of second elongated slots each having a length and a width and being provided on the second annular braking surface corresponding to the plurality of first slots;

at least one first opening in and having a size smaller than the length of the first slot, wherein all or a portion of which opening in said first slot being provided within each first slot;

at least one second opening in and having a size smaller than the length of the second slot, wherein all or a portion of which opening in said second slot being provided within each second slot, wherein each second opening of each second slot corresponds substantially to and ~~fluid~~ communicates fluidly with a first opening of a first slot; and

said slots terminating short of and spaced from said periphery and central portion of said rotor, and directed generally at or close to right angles to said vanes.